



## **LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission Minutes**

**Date:** Thursday August 17, 2023

**Time:** 6:30pm

**Location:** Conducted by Hybrid Participation -Arlington Community Center HHS Conference Room and via Zoom

This will be a hybrid meeting. Individuals may choose one of the following in-person or virtual options:

Attend in person in the 2nd Floor HHS Conference Room at the Community Center (Senior Center), 20 Academy Street/27 Maple Street. Registration not required for in-person attendance.

2. \*Notice to the Public on meeting privacy\* In the interests of preventing abuse of videoconferencing technology (i.e. Zoom Bombing) all participants, including members of the public, wishing to engage via the Zoom App must register for each meeting and will notice multi-step authentication protocols. Further, members of the public who wish to participate without providing their name may still do so by registering to receive the meeting info and using the telephone dial in information provided.

Present: Co-Chairs: Helene Newberg, Susan Ryan-Vollmar; Commissioners: Lisa Krinsky, Kym Goldsmith, Andy Robinson, Kari Sasportas, Paloma Cotton-Herman

Absent: Molly Blaauw Gillis

Liaisons: Lenard Diggins, Jill Harvey, Chief Julie Flaherty, Julia Starkey

Guests: Mindy Brady, new community member

### **Minutes**

1. Remote Participation Statement and Guidelines
  - a. Read
2. Land Acknowledgement
  - a. Read
3. Review and approval of June 2023 Minutes
  - a. LK motioned to approve, SRV seconded the motion; all approved
4. Review and approval of June 2023 Minutes
  - a. SRV motioned to approve, LK seconded the motion; all approved

5. Consent Agenda
  - a. SRV motioned to approve, LK seconded the motion; all approved
6. Working Group Updates
  - a. Education -no updates
  - b. Community Engagement
    - i. Rainbows Across Communities event was held July 29, 12:30-2:30 at Spy Pond. Arlington as a town had highest attendance. COA shared tents for the event
    - ii. LK, PCH, AR put together a Pride month retrospective which is in shared drive, and will be shared over next month for ARC members to review prior to discussion at next scheduled meeting.
    - iii. Great turnout for ARC town Pride event held June 17, 2-5pm at Whittemore Park.
    - iv. ARC needs additional Commissioners to sign up to volunteer for our Town Day booth; event is Sept 23, 10:30-4:30, and takes place along Massachusetts Avenue between Pleasant Street and Jason Street. Will share signup w/ volunteer list, and add event to upcoming newsletter.
    - v. Plan to inventory the stock of swag in prep for Town Day event. Any necessary supplies have been given the green light by KG from Budget Working Group per SRV.
    - vi. National Night Out, a community building campaign to promote partnership between police and community members. Took place August 1 from 5-7 pm at Thompson School Park between Union Street and Everett Street. This was the first year ARC participated in the event; invitation was extended to us via Chief Flaherty
  - c. Town Systems & Policies- no updates
  - d. Communications
    - i. No newsletter since June
    - ii. Next newsletter will include Community Engagement updates, Town Day event, and ARC to recruit new commissioner.
    - iii. New marketing material through Collins will be written w/ a 1 pager describing what we do informed by community based questions from Pride event
  - e. Budget
    - i. A \$1000 donation was received and will be added to the revolving fund
7. Liaison Updates
  - a. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI)
    - i. DEI will be hosting an info session (this is not a forum) for Q&A to address questions about the Proposed MBTA Communities Zoning map will be held w/ support from Commissions. Date will be TBD (mid Sept) and will be held in hybrid fashion.
    - ii. Continue meetings with Dept. Heads to review Equity Audit result

- iii. Specific to the new town managers, on Sept 14 from 4-5:30, a welcome reception will be held in the Town Garden. There have been no notable changes since the new town managers started.
  - iv. The Language Access project continuing with a pilot using the new translator tools to begin in Sept. to Nov. 2023.
  - v. Working on submitting projects for this year's ADA improvement grant cycle.
  - vi. Supporting DPCD on MBTA Communities project
- b. Police Department (APD)
  - i. National Night Out was a success, we are grateful that you were able to take part in the event
  - ii. Trainings; APD completed Active Shooter Training which took place at Stratton School. We have scheduled 16 Officers for a Fall CIT (Crisis Intervention) Training which is a 40 hour course that gives police officers the tools and skills needed to work with community members in crisis. All officers are currently trained in Mental Health First Aid, CIT is the next level. We hope to train the entire department over the next year.
  - iii. APD is currently interviewing candidates for a part time clinician position for co-responding with officers in addition to our full time clinician.
- c. GSA/QSA-AHS/Ottoson/Gibbs
  - i. Not here over summer for updates
- d. Library
  - i. Reel Queer events may morph in another way depending on attendance, while Queer Book Club has been consistently well attended
  - ii. Reel Queer Documentary and Discussion: The Archivettes, Thursday, August 31, 7:00-8:45 p.m., Robbins Library Community Room. We will be discussing the documentary The Archivettes (2019). Founded in the 1970s in a New York City apartment, The Lesbian Herstory Archives is now the world's largest collection of materials by and about lesbians. For more than 40 years, the all-volunteer organization has striven to combat lesbian invisibility. Now it faces challenges with new leaders & technology. The Archivettes is a tribute to second-wave feminism and intergenerational connection, as well as an urgent rallying cry for continued activism in a politically charged moment.
  - iii. Queer Book Group, Wednesday, September 27, 7:00-8:00 p.m., Robbins Library Conference Room and remote option. This month's Queer Book Group will discuss ¡Hola Papi!: How to come out in a Walmart parking lot and other life lessons by John Paul Brammer. Copies are available at the Robbins Library circulation desk and as

an ebook on Libby. We will meet on Wednesday September 27th from 7-8 p.m. in person at Robbins Library and on Zoom. Contact Julia Starkey (jstarkey@minlib.net) for more information. This event is co-sponsored with the Arlington Rainbow Commission.

- iv. Reel Queer Documentary and Discussion: Title TBA, Thursday, October 12th, 7:00-8:45 p.m.
- v. Check the Robbins Library events calendar (<https://www.robbinslibrary.org/events/>) or email Julia Starkey (jstarkey@minlib.net) for updates.
- e. Select Board
  - i. Info from 2 1/2 override will be addressed at the Oct 17 Special Town Meeting
- f. Council on Aging
  - i. Julie Nowak from BayPath Springwell gave a very informative and well attended Modern Pronouns talk in July and we will have her back in the winter, per request of our seniors!
  - ii. August 29 (Tues) 2PM in person only, ARL Senior Center, monthly crafting event
  - iii. August 31\*\*NEW DATE\*\*\* (Thurs) 7PM in person only Reel Queer movie and discussion at Robbins Library
  - iv. Sept 5 (Tues) 2PM on zoom only fall planning
  - v. Sept 12 (Tues) 2PM on zoom only game day
  - vi. Sept 19 (Tues) 2PM in person only, ARL Senior Center, monthly crafting event
  - vii. Sept 26 (Tues) Noon in person only, ARL Senior Center PIZZA PARTY!
  - viii. Also, our second annual Halloween party is 10/31 from 2-4PM
  - ix. Sage table will be November 9th, 6-9PM and if Rainbow Commission wants to help brainstorm a speaker and/or topic for this year, that would be appreciated, and I am hoping you will cosponsor and cohost again this year!
- 8. Public Engagement and Open Commentary
  - a. LK reported that Governor Maura Healey has moved to Arlington, and recommended ARC give her a warm welcome in some way. Jill said that ARC could invite her to attend RC meeting as a resident of the town in hybrid or in person by sending an email to her office to invite and welcome her.
  - b. AR reported that on Aug 29, there will be a Lexington Town meeting to address the challenge to their age appropriate inclusivity curriculum, and he plans to attend. Commissioners can attend as citizens of the state of

MA, and not as representatives of ARC. SRV to add event to ARC newsletter. HB recommended AR could reach out to LexPride to see what ways they might like support.

- c. All ARC introduced themselves to Mindy Brady, a new member of the town in attendance at the meeting tonight.
9. Close and Next Meeting. Thursday, September 21, 2023. 6:30pm Hybrid.
- a. LK motioned to approve, SRV seconded the motion; all approved. Meeting was adjourned at 7pm.